

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PERMREPS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCHEON TODAY, MARCH 4, THE INVITATION EXTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR THE SYG AND PERMREPS TO VISIT WASHINGTON WAS UNIVERSALLY APPRECIATED.

2. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS TO WHEN WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE DATE FOR THIS OCCASION. IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY FELT THAT, OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES WOULD BE CONTROLLING, BUT I WAS REQUESTED TO FORWARD FOR HIS CONSIDERATION AND THAT OF THE DEPARTMENT THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

3. IF THERE WERE TO BE A MEETING AT A TIME WIDELY SEPARATED FROM THE DATES SET FOR NPG ON JUNE 16-17, AND THE SACLANT SYMPOSIUM AT ANNAPOLIS SLATED FOR JUNE 18 TO ABOUT JUNE 20, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT EARLY MAY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, ALMOST AN EVEN VOTE OF PERMREPS ON AN EARLIER SEPARATE DATE VERSUS SEEING THE PRESIDENT DURING OR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE SYMPOSIUM AT THE US NAVAL ACADEMY IN ANNAPOLIS. SINCE ATTENDANCE FROM JUNE 18 TO JUNE 20 AT ANNAPOLIS WOULD NOT BE COMPULSORY, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT IF THE PRESIDENT WERE AGREEABLE TO IT AND IT SUITED HIS SCHEDULE, PERHAPS THEY COULD BE RECEIVED BY HIM SOMETIME AFTER THE 18TH.

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4. IN FAVOR OF A SEPARATE MEETING IN EARLY MAY WERE THE TURKISH, GERMAN, LUXEMBOURG, NORWEGIAN, GREEK, ICELAND AND PORTUGUESE AMBASSADORS. CANADA WAS NEUTRAL. DE ROSE OF FRANCE EMPHATICALLY PREFERRED A DATE DURING OR AFTER ANNAPOLIS, AN OPINION STRONGLY

ENDORSED BY HIS GOVERNMENT FOR POLITICAL REASONS, AS DID THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, BELGIAN, DANISH, BRITISH, DUTCH, ITALIAN AMBASSADORS.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD SUBMIT THE ABOVE VIEWS TO WASHINGTON. IT IS UP TO THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE WHAT BEST SUITS HIS CONVENIENCE. SOME OF THE MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WILL NOT ATTEND THE NPG MEETINGS, WERE THE MOST INSISTENT, IF IT WOULD BE ARRANGED, TO SEE THE PRESIDENT DURING OR AFTER THE ANNAPOLIS SYMPOSIUM.

6. THE DEPARTMENT CAN TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FEASIBILITY, IF IT SUITS THE PRESIDENT, OF PREEMPTING ONE OR MORE OF THE ANNAPOLIS

DAYS. I GATHER THAT SOME OF THE PERMREPS EXPECT TO GO THERE ONLY ONCE, ON THE 18TH, WHEN THE SYG WILL DELIVER A SPEECH.

7. I ACTED AS A REPORTER ONLY AND STATED NO PREFERENCE. PERSONALLY, I INCLINE TOWARD THE RECOMMENDATION OF TELESCOPING, IF PRACTICABLE, THIS EVENT INTO THE ANNAPOLIS DATES.

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